

life, attend regularly upon all the external means of grace, keep an open door for the incoming and a clean house for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and our word for it your Christian experience will be something worth having some of these days.

#### Brother Mackey Resigns

On page 13 of this issue will be found the resignation of brother J. C. Mackey from membership in the Brethren Publication Board, giving as a reason for this action, that he can not even in the "slightest degree be responsible for the weak literature the office is supplying." In connection with this resignation attention is called to a communication from Sister Williams, page 12, a member of the congregation at Salisbury, Pa., where Brother Mackey is pastor. The communication can be understood only in the light of the resignation. To one who is thoroughly familiar with the situation, who knows the facts as we know them, there is something about the whole affair that borders on amusement, and yet not amusement either, for these facts grieve the loyal heart.

It is somewhat singular that our literature which is well liked throughout the brotherhood should make such a poor impression in one church, and still more singular that it happens to be in the same church where the pastor felt it necessary to resign from the Publication Board. Such men as Gillin, Miller, Tombaugh, Yoder, Furry, Teeter, Livengood, Haskins, Rench, and a host of others whose names we need not mention, and who are certainly not very far behind in intellectual strength,—these men speak of our literature in almost unqualified terms of approval, and yet the pastor of the Salisbury congregation finds it an injustice to impose this literature on the young people of his congregation. The President of the First National Bank of this city is a constant subscriber to the Brethren Quarterly, while the superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday-school calls for a copy regularly, together with others in this place, because as they say it is so helpful to them in the preparation of the lesson.

We wish to inform Brother Mackey that no member of the Brethren Publication Board is any more responsible for the literature that goes out from this office, than any other member of the Brethren church. The Board does not even have any jurisdiction in this matter. The Conference has appointed a Committee to examine all manuscript intended for publication in tract or book form, and as for the EVANGELIST and the Sunday school literature the editor alone is responsible for it. He is responsible to the Conference which entrusted him with the present incumbency. Of this Conference Brother Mackey is still a member, and he with every other member of that Conference

is equally responsible for the product of the institution it has created and which it sustains. If the literature prepared by the present incumbent is too "weak" to merit the support of the people it becomes the duty of the Conference to find a man with sufficient brains to prepare a literature that will not do violence to the refined tastes and superior intelligence of the young people.

The congregation at Salisbury, Pa., with its almost 100 members, represented as "financially strong," and whose pastor is "anxious to have the EVANGELIST enter every home," has at this writing *five* paid up subscriptions, and for two quarters has purchased no Sunday school literature. The communication from that place is a shrewd presentation of argument why the literature is ruled out, but the argument is illogical as appears on its very surface. "When the church shows the disposition of loyalty to herself." What church? The Brethren church, of course, but the Brethren church is made up of the several local congregations throughout the brotherhood. The aggregate of these local churches is the Brethren church, and as such she "shows the disposition of loyalty to herself," when each local congregation is loyal in its support of the general interests of the church at large. Now if each congregation were to follow the line of argument adopted by the Salisbury congregation what would become of loyalty? That congregation does not set a very good example of loyalty to the interests of the church. It promises help to an institution *after* that institution has been made strong enough by others to be independent of such help.

We have written in the spirit of charity. The communication from the Salisbury church was pressed for publication, and justice to ourselves and the cause in general demanded a reply, or at least an explanation. The Lord direct us all in the way of right and truth.

### Brief Notes

A great Standard Oil magnate is going to build himself a million dollar house. He already has several very fine palaces in this world. Now if he could only stay here forever, wouldn't he be fixed?

Workmen removing the debris of the burnt Windsor hotel came upon the wine cellar, broached some of the fine liquors which were found intact, and immediately proceeded to be hilarious. Rum will quickly rob men of all semblance of humanity. These men were drinking themselves drunk in a charnel house. The awful lesson of sudden judgment was totally lost on them.

Representatives of the Cuban Military assembly have been sent to Washington, but President McKinley will not receive them because the Assembly has not been recognized officially, and therefore its representatives have no diplomatic status. There are many who approach God in a way which prevents his receiving them, when they come, for example, in their own name and in their own merits. But when they come in the name of Jesus, they have immediate access to a throne of grace. His merits give us the needed status.

New York is to have underground rapid transit, thro tunnels under the surface of the streets. The underground business appears to be popular in the metropolis.

Chicago Aldermanic candidates are nominated by petition, and a man may of course get enough petitioners to elect him. Another and far more important election may be promoted and confirmed thro the efficacy of petitions. Do not fail to use the proper means to make "your election sure."

Mormons are said to find northern Illinois an encouraging field for the making of converts to their doctrine; which is probably explained by the fact that Chicago is in Northern Illinois. The moral influence of some of our great cities is both fearful and wonderful.

The government is performing a sad duty in bringing back to this country the bodies of soldiers who were killed, or who died in Cuba. Not so will be the return of Christ's soldiers from the victorious war spiritual. They will come back not in death, but in glorious life; not with funeral march, but with loud acclaim and splendid ovation of joy.

Rev. James A. Spurgeon, a brother of the celebrated Charles H. Spurgeon, died last week. He once said of his distinguished brother that he succeeded above all other men as a preacher and pastor because he was a man of indomitable go. That go is a good word for preachers and pastors. We find it in the Commission.

Dr. Leitner, the great linguist, died at Bonn, Germany, a few days since. He could speak and write in fifty languages. To speak and write well in one is a rare accomplishment. Many languages do not testify to much wisdom in a man who spent his life in the effort to master fifty. Many a less gifted mind is much more profitably employed.

Some very expensive jewelry, diamonds and pearls were lost in the great Windsor fire. These baubles are as perishable as all other mundane things. There are jems, however, which are able to withstand the fire, but comparatively few people seem to care very much about them. The "pearl of great price" is one of them.

A fraud of the genus healer, an American by the way, is creating a great sensation in Paris, France, where he is said to have hundreds of followers. One would think that civilized communities ought by this time to be proof against these palpable cheats, but there seems to be no limit to the absurd credulity of people who are too "sane" to believe in God.

Messages have just been exchanged across the English Channel, a distance of twenty miles, by the new wireless telegraphy. It is thought to be a wonderful achievement, but the faith of the Christian has a million times accomplished a far more wonderful feat, the wireless telegraphy between earth and heaven. Are you familiar with the working of it?

Two hundred thousand dollars has been appropriated by some English Society to send an expedition in search of the South Pole. It is one of the strangest things that sane men will persevere in an enterprise so expensive and so futile. The money wasted on these polar expeditions would do an immense amount of good if applied to the development of enterprises in more tractable fields.

Two preachers in New York have been appointed on the fire force. There seems to be something decidedly appropriate in preachers fighting fire. Wish they would all go to fighting the conflagration of drink which is consuming so many thousands, body and soul.

A writer says of the Romanizing tendency now so apparent in the church of England, that many of its members who are really Protestant in faith would join the evangelical denominations if it wasn't "such a come down," by which he meant that to belong to any of the dissenting churches implied social inferiority. It is a mighty smart trick of the devil to draw the social line between Christians.